

CHAPTER 90A

BOXING AND WRESTLING

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90A.1 Definitions.

As used in [this chapter](#), unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “*Boxer registry*” means an entity certified by the association of boxing commissions for the purpose of maintaining records and identification of boxers.
 2. “*Commissioner*” means the state commissioner of athletics, who is also the labor commissioner appointed pursuant to [section 91.2](#), or the labor commissioner’s designee.
 3. “*Official*” means a person who is employed as a referee, judge, timekeeper, or match physician for a boxing or wrestling match event.
 4. “*Participant*” means a person involved in the boxing or wrestling match event and includes contestants, seconds, managers, and similar event personnel.
 5. “*Professional boxing or wrestling match*” means a boxing or wrestling contest or exhibition open to the public in this state for which the contestants are paid or awarded a prize for their participation.
 6. “*Promoter*” means a person or business that does at least one of the following:
 - a. Organizes, holds, advertises, or otherwise conducts a professional boxing or wrestling match.
 - b. Charges admission for the viewing of a professional boxing or wrestling match received through a closed-circuit, pay-per-view, or similarly distributed signal.
- [C71, 73, 75, 77, §727A.1; C79, 81, §99C.1]
 86 Acts, ch 1245, §944
 C87, §90A.1
 91 Acts, ch 137, §1; 97 Acts, ch 29, §1; 99 Acts, ch 68, §13
 Referred to in [§90A.4](#), [90A.11](#)

90A.2 License.

1. A person shall not act as a promoter of a professional boxing or wrestling match without first obtaining a license from the commissioner. [This subsection](#) shall not apply to a person distributing a closed-circuit, pay-per-view, or similarly distributed signal to a person acting as a promoter or to a person viewing the signal in a private residence.
 2. The license application shall be in the form prescribed by the commissioner and shall contain information that is substantially complete and accurate. Any change in the information provided in the application shall be reported promptly to the commissioner. The application shall be submitted no later than seven days prior to the intended date of the match.
 3. Each application for a license shall be accompanied by a surety or cash bond in the sum of five thousand dollars, payable to the state of Iowa, which shall be conditioned upon the payment of the tax and any penalties imposed pursuant to [this chapter](#).
- [C71, 73, 75, 77, §727A.2; C79, 81, §99C.2]
 86 Acts, ch 1245, §936, 944
 C87, §90A.2
 97 Acts, ch 29, §2
 Referred to in [§90A.6](#), [90A.9](#)

90A.3 Professional boxer registration.

1. Each professional boxer residing in Iowa shall register with the commissioner. The

registration application shall be in the form prescribed by the commissioner and shall be accompanied by the fee established by rule by the commissioner. The information required by the commissioner shall include, but is not limited to, the following:

- a. The boxer's name and address.
 - b. The boxer's gender.
 - c. The boxer's date of birth.
 - d. The boxer's social security number or, if a foreign boxer, any similar citizen identification number or professional boxer number from the country of residence of the boxer.
 - e. The boxer's personal identification number assigned to the boxer by a professional boxing registry certified by the association of boxing commissions if the boxer is registered with a registry.
 - f. Two copies of a recent photograph of the boxer.
 - g. An official government-issued photo identification containing the boxer's photograph and social security number or similar foreign identification number.
2. The commissioner shall issue an identification card to a boxer registered pursuant to [this chapter](#). The identification card shall contain a recent photograph, the boxer's social security number or similar foreign identification number, and a personal identification number assigned to the boxer by a boxing registry.
3. A registration issued pursuant to [this section](#) shall be valid for two years from the date of issue.
4. [This section](#) does not apply to professional wrestlers or contestants in boxing elimination tournaments.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, §727A.3; C79, 81, §99C.3]

86 Acts, ch 1245, §944

C87, §90A.3

97 Acts, ch 29, §3; 97 Acts, ch 40, §5

Referred to in [§90A.6](#), [90A.8](#), [90A.10](#)

90A.4 Match promoter responsibility.

The promoter, as defined in [section 90A.1, subsection 6](#), paragraph "a", shall be responsible for the conduct of all officials and participants at a professional boxing or wrestling match. The commissioner may reprimand, suspend, deny, or revoke the participation of any promoter, official, or participant for violations of rules adopted by the commissioner. Rulings or decisions of a promoter or an official are not decisions of the commissioner and are not subject to procedures under [chapter 17A](#). The commissioner may take action based upon the rulings or decisions of a promoter or an official. [This section](#) shall not apply to a promoter as defined in [section 90A.1, subsection 6](#), paragraph "b".

[C71, 73, 75, 77, §727A.4; C79, 81, §99C.4]

86 Acts, ch 1245, §944

C87, §90A.4

91 Acts, ch 137, §2; 97 Acts, ch 29, §4

90A.5 Emergency suspensions.

1. Notwithstanding the procedural requirements of [chapter 17A](#), the commissioner may orally suspend a license, registration, or participation immediately if the commissioner determines that any of the following have occurred:

- a. A license or registration was fraudulently or deceptively obtained.
- b. The holder of a license or registration fails at any time to meet the qualifications for issuance.
- c. A boxer fails to pass a prefight physical examination.
- d. A match promoter permits a nonregistered boxer to participate in a professional boxing match.
- e. A match promoter permits a person whose license, registration, or authority, issued pursuant to [this chapter](#), is under suspension to participate in a boxing event.

f. A match promoter or professional boxer is under suspension by any other state boxing regulatory organization.

g. A match promoter or professional boxer is under suspension in any state.

h. A match promoter, professional boxer, or participant is in violation of rules adopted pursuant to [section 90A.7](#).

2. A written notice of a suspension issued pursuant to [this section](#) shall be given to the person suspended within seven days of the emergency suspension. The provisions of [chapter 17A](#) shall apply once the written notice is given.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, §727A.5; C79, 81, §99C.5]

86 Acts, ch 1245, §944

C87, §90A.5

97 Acts, ch 29, §5

Referred to in [§90A.6](#)

90A.6 Suspensions, denials, and revocations.

1. The commissioner may suspend, deny, revoke, annul, or withdraw a license, registration, or authority to participate in a professional boxing or wrestling match if any of the following occur:

a. Any of the reasons enumerated in [section 90A.5](#).

b. Failure to pay fees or penalties due pursuant to [section 90A.2](#), [90A.3](#), or [90A.9](#).

2. The provisions of [chapter 17A](#) shall apply to actions under [this section](#).

[C71, 73, 75, 77, §727A.6; C79, 81, §99C.6]

86 Acts, ch 1245, §944

C87, §90A.6

91 Acts, ch 137, §3; 97 Acts, ch 29, §6

90A.7 Rules.

The commissioner shall adopt rules, pursuant to [chapter 17A](#), that the commissioner determines are reasonably necessary to administer and enforce [this chapter](#).

The commissioner may adopt the rules of a recognized national or world boxing organization that sanctions a boxing match in this state to regulate the match if the organization's rules provide protection to the boxers participating in the match which is equal to or greater than the protections provided by [this chapter](#) or by rules adopted pursuant to [this chapter](#). As used in this paragraph, "recognized national or world boxing organization" includes, but is not limited to, the international boxing federation, the world boxing association, and the world boxing council.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, §727A.7; C79, 81, §99C.7]

86 Acts, ch 1245, §944

C87, §90A.7

90 Acts, ch 1266, §38; 91 Acts, ch 137, §4; 92 Acts, ch 1032, §1; 97 Acts, ch 29, §7

Referred to in [§90A.5](#)

90A.8 Required conditions for boxing matches.

A boxing match shall be not more than fifteen rounds in length and the contestants shall wear gloves weighing at least eight ounces during such contests. The commissioner may adopt rules requiring more stringent procedures for specific types of boxing.

A contestant shall not take part in a boxing match unless the contestant has presented a valid registration identification card issued pursuant to [section 90A.3](#) to the commissioner prior to the weigh-in for the boxing match. The contestant shall pass a rigorous physical examination to determine the contestant's fitness to engage in any such match within twenty-four hours of the start of the match. The examination shall be conducted by a licensed practicing physician designated or authorized by the commissioner.

[C71, 73, 75, 77, §727A.8; C79, 81, §99C.8]

86 Acts, ch 1245, §944

C87, §90A.8

91 Acts, ch 137, §5; 97 Acts, ch 29, §8

90A.9 Written report filed — tax due — penalty.

1. The promoter of a professional boxing or wrestling match or event shall, within twenty days after the match or event, furnish to the commissioner a written report stating the number of tickets sold, the gross amount of admission proceeds of the professional boxing or wrestling match, and other matters the commissioner may prescribe by rule. The value of complimentary tickets in excess of five percent of the number of tickets sold shall be included in the gross admission receipts. Within twenty days of the match or event, the promoter shall pay to the treasurer of state a tax of five percent of its total gross admission receipts, after deducting state sales tax, from the sale of tickets of admission to the professional boxing or wrestling match or event.

2. If the promoter fails to make a timely report within the time prescribed, or if the report is unsatisfactory to the commissioner, the commissioner may examine or cause to be examined the books and records of the promoter, and subpoena and examine under oath witnesses, for the purpose of determining the total amount of the gross admission receipts for any match and the amount of tax due pursuant to the provisions of [this chapter](#). The commissioner may, as the result of such examination, fix and determine the tax, and may also assess the promoter the reasonable cost of conducting the examination. If a promoter defaults in the payment of any tax due or the costs incurred in making such examination, the promoter shall forfeit to the state the sum of five thousand dollars, which may be recovered by the attorney general pursuant to the bond required under [section 90A.2, subsection 3](#).

[C71, 73, 75, 77, §727A.9; C79, 81, §99C.9]

86 Acts, ch 1245, §944

C87, §90A.9

97 Acts, ch 29, §9

Referred to in [§90A.6](#), [90A.10](#), [90A.11](#)

90A.10 Grants.

1. Moneys collected pursuant to [sections 90A.3](#) and [90A.9](#) in excess of the amount of moneys needed to administer [this chapter](#) are appropriated and shall be used by the commissioner to award grants to organizations that promote amateur boxing matches in this state.

2. The commissioner shall adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) to establish application procedures and criteria for the review and approval of grants awarded pursuant to [this section](#).

3. An advisory committee composed of three members of the golden gloves association of America, incorporated — Iowa branch, who shall be appointed by the association, and three members of the United States of America amateur boxing federation — Iowa branch, who shall be appointed by the federation, shall advise the commissioner regarding the awarding of grants pursuant to [this section](#).

84 Acts, ch 1106, §1

C85, §99C.10

86 Acts, ch 1245, §944

C87, §90A.10

87 Acts, ch 26, §1; 90 Acts, ch 1004, §1; 93 Acts, ch 15, §1; 97 Acts, ch 29, §10

90A.11 License penalty.

A person who acts as a professional boxing or wrestling match promoter, as defined in [section 90A.1](#), without first obtaining a license commits a serious misdemeanor. In addition to criminal penalties, the promoter shall be liable to the state for the taxes and penalties pursuant to [section 90A.9](#).

97 Acts, ch 29, §11

90A.12 Age requirement for amateur boxing contestants.

1. A person shall not participate as a contestant in an organized amateur boxing contest unless each contestant participating in the contest meets the age requirements of USA boxing incorporated, or its successor organization. A birth certificate, or similar document

validating the contestant's date of birth, must be submitted at the time of the prefight physical examination in order to determine eligibility.

2. [Subsection 1](#) does not apply to contestants in regional, national, or international organized amateur boxing contests or to organized amateur boxing contests involving contestants who are serving in the military service.

97 Acts, ch 29, §12; 2001 Acts, ch 188, §23